GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1368
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
INTEGRATED CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES SCHEME
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs.8534 crore was provided for the development of child, their health and maternal care during 1992-99 but despite that there has been no appreciable dent on the prevailing conditions as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Report No.3 of 2000 on page 127;

(b) if so, whether the Government have gone into its causes; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to improve the ICDS?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) An expenditure of Rs.8534 Crores (approximately) was incurred during 1992-99 on the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, as mentioned in the C&AG's Report No.3 of 2000. The Report has inter alia, pointed out 75 per cent achievement of targets set for number of ICDS Projects. The impact of the Scheme has been significant in the field of health, nutrition and educational status of the beneficiaries as brought out by the National Evaluation on ICDS (NIPCCD-1992); ICDS Survey, Evaluation and Research 1997-99 (CTC-IMCD-1995); National Concurrent Evaluation of ICDS (NCAER 2000-01) etc. The Report refers to shortfalls like slow rate of the decline of Infant Mortality Rate, at 72 per thousand in 1996, discrepancies in distribution of supplementary nutrition by the State Governments, less provision for supplementary nutrition by the State Governments, non-provision of therapeutic food in some States and deficiency in health input delivery etc.

(b)&(c) The steps taken/being taken to improve the impact of the Scheme include, expansion of the Scheme; impressing upon States to make adequate budget provision for supplementary nutrition and to ensure registration of all eligible beneficiaries in accordance with the norms of the Scheme; decentralization of training of ICDS functionaries, strengthening of health input delivery in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, qualitative improvement in service delivery etc.